THE ETERNAL PURPOSE OF GOD.

or

The Doctrine of Election.

Matt.22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

INTRO:-I. Three ways of approaching the subject.

1. To accept the doctrine without question.
2. To ignore the doctrine altogether.
3. To carefully consider all the facts in the case and sift the truth out of them.

II. Definition of terms used.

1. "Predestination."

a/ derivation.

1. From Latin "prae-destinare"=to determine beforehand.
2. N.T.Greek word,"prōrisĕn"=to see before, to be mindful of one always.

b/meaning.

1. Foreordination; God's Eternal Purpose concerning all events.
2. The ordering of all things beforehand by the Creator, including the electing of some to Eternal Life and(by implication) the damning forever of all others.

2. "The Called".

From the N.T. word,"klētoi"=those having accepted the invitation; Xn believers.

3. "Chosen".

From the N.T. word,"eklektai"=the chosen ones from among the called; choice ones; select ones; fitted ones.

A. The Several Doctrines Considered and Classified.

I. The Belief of the Early Church. Expressed in Rom.8:29.
1.Expressed in Romans 8:29.
2.All who believe in God and Providence believe in
a/ a divine purpose in the creation of man.
b/ a divine purpose to produce true "Sons of God".

II. Some of the principle doctrines.

1.Augustine:- The slavery and doom of the whole race.
Some saved by the grace of God and the rest damned.
2.Calvin:- Perfected Augustine's view. Appears in some of the Westminister Confessions. Chapt.3.
3.Luther:- God is the cause of everything, including Satin.
4.Lutherans:-Believedin God's foreknowledge but believed that evil came from Satin and not from God.

III. The differences classified.

1.God wished all men to be saved.
He wished some to be saved.
2.The efficacy of the Atonement extended to the whole world
Extended to the Elect only.
3.The doctrine applied only to the Elect.
Applied to the Elect and Reprobate alike.
4.Reprobation applied only to Adams posterity.
Adam's fall was itself predestined.

IV. The Basis of all the doctrines rests upon

1.A profound sense of sin. — Read Conf. 7. Fall of Man's Sinful nature
2.An overwhelming sense of the supremacy of God and the sense of man's nothingness before Him.
3.An experience of having been translated into the Kingdom of Light Purity, and Love, not by the exercise of the will, but thru a divine influence.

V. Why men have held the doctrine.
1.Natural tendency to exalt the spiritual quickening above ordinary human experience.
2.Failure to recognize the Non-Xn world as God's ownworld.
In which the Holy Spirit is at work.

B. Scriptural Support of the Doctrines.

I. Chiefly based on God's choice of certain ones according to His Eternal Purpose, as set forth in Romans IX.

1. No "free will" in 9th. Nothing but free will in 10th.

2. A predestination to something great and good.
"For whom He foreknew He ordained to be conformed to the image of His Son".
Eph.1:4,5. "He chose us...that we should be holy and without blemish before him: having in love foreordained us unto adoption as sons unto Himself thru Jesus Christ."
Jn.15:16 "I have chosen you and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth much fruit."

The Elect are God's representatives and heralds of the New Life, chosen to impart it to all others.
a/ Why was Abraham chosen? Gen.22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations be blessed.
b/ Why were the Children of Israel chosen? To bring all nations to the worship of the True God.
c/ Why was Paul chosen?
d/ Why were you and I chosen?
"To whom much has been given much shall be required."

1Tim.2:4 God wishes all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

3. The case of Esau and Jacob. Mal.1:2f.

4. Pharoah's hardened heart.
a/ not a case of moral depravity but a one of obstinacy and blindness.
b/ God used the obstinancy and blindness of Israel to make Xty a universal religion.
c/ hence, God's severity and kindness alike are used to save the whole world of humanity, for that is His Eternal Purpose that not one should perish.

5. The case of the potter and the clay.
a/ not fatalism. b/ taken from Jerimiah.

II. God's Eternal Purpose in the light of the Text.

1. The purpose of the parable is to set in vivid light the guilt of the Jewish leaders for rejecting X; and the punishment that was to befall them.
2. The addition from which the text is taken is for the benefit of the multitude.
3. As interpreting ~~the~~ Eternal Purpose of God the parable sets forth that the union between Christ and Humanity, in spite of all rejections, is bound to occur.
   The victory of Right over Might.
   The victory of Truth over Falsehood.
   The victory of Good over Evil.
   The victory of Love over selfishness.

CONCLUSION:-

I. Do I believe in God's Eternal Purpose?

II. Do I believe in any of the doctrines of Predestination?

III. On what ground did I subscribe to the Westminister Confession of Faith?
   Ans. On the ground of its Declaratory Statement.

4. The Doctrine of Predestination
   1. Unscriptural,
   2. Unchristian,
   3. Rests on a false psychology.
   4. Does not stand the test of experience.
   5. In contradiction to God's law of Love.